

What is claimed is:

1. An automated payment system for a parking facility, comprising:

an exit gate operable to control egress from the parking facility; and

a payment terminal including;

means for assessing a payment amount;

means for receiving the payment amount;

means for opening said exit gate upon receipt of the payment amount; and

means for providing two-way video and audio communication with a monitoring facility remote from said payment terminal.

2. The automated payment system according to claim 1, wherein said means for providing two-way video and audio communication includes an Ethernet or Internet link between said payment terminal and the monitoring facility.

3. The automated payment system according to claim 2, wherein said means for providing two-way video and audio communication includes an IP-addressable video camera.

4. The automated payment system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a processor at said payment terminal operable to control said means for assessing and said means for receiving; and

a data link between said processor and the monitoring facility to permit remote control of said processor.

5. An automated payment system for a plurality of parking facilities comprising:

a central monitoring facility;

a plurality of exit facilities remote from said central monitoring facility, each controlling egress from a corresponding one of the plurality of parking facilities;

a payment terminal at each of said plurality of exit facilities, each having means for assessing and receiving payment; and

means for providing two-way video and audio communication between said central monitoring facility and said payment terminal at each of said plurality of exit facilities.

6. The automated payment system according to claim 5, wherein said means for providing two-way video and

audio communication includes an Ethernet or Internet link between said payment terminal and the monitoring facility.

7. The automated payment system according to claim 6, wherein said means for providing two-way video and audio communication includes an IP-addressable video camera.

8. The automated payment system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a processor at said payment terminal operable to control said means for assessing and said means for receiving; and

a data link between said processor and the monitoring facility to permit remote control of said processor.

9. The automated payment system according to claim 9, further comprising:

a central processor at said central monitoring facility connected to said processor at said payment terminal through said data link and controllable at said central monitoring facility to control said processor at said payment terminal.

10. An automated payment system for a facility, comprising:

an apparatus for calculating a payment amount;
an apparatus for receiving the payment amount;
a gate apparatus operable to control access to the facility in response to receipt of the payment amount; and
a two-way video and audio communication system linking the automated payment system with a monitoring facility remote from the automated payment facility.

11. The automated payment system according to claim 10, wherein said means for providing two-way video and audio communication includes an Ethernet or Internet link between said payment terminal and the monitoring facility.

12. The automated payment system according to claim 11, wherein said means for providing two-way video and audio communication includes an IP-addressable video camera.

13. The automated payment system according to claim 11, further comprising:

a processor operable to control said means for assessing and said means for receiving; and

a data link between said processor and the monitoring facility to permit remote control of said processor.